<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

Please **CANCEL** claims 17-23 without prejudice or disclaimer, **AMEND** claim 8, and **ADD** claims 51 and 52, as follows:

1-7 (CANCELLED)

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of recording compatibility information on a recording medium, comprising:

providing a physical format information zone having a reserved zone; and

recording extended part version information in the reserved zone of the physical format information zone, the extended part version information comprising:

a detailed extended part version,

a latest part version having recording compatibility with a recording/reproducing apparatus of a given specification level, and

a latest part version having reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein:

the detailed extended part version, the recording of the latest part version having recording compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus, and the recording of the latest part version having reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus, each further comprises an integer part, a first decimal place and a second decimal place recorded in a form n.xy,

n represents a specification change <u>having no compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus</u>,

x represents a specification change having ~~no~~ compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus, and

y represents a minor change having recording/reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus.

9. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 8, further comprising recording non-extended part version information in an unreserved zone of the physical format information zone, wherein said non-extended part version information indicates that the extended part version information is recorded in a different location.

10-23 (CANCELLED)

24. (ORIGINAL) A method of determining compatibility between a recording medium and a recording/reproducing apparatus, comprising:

installing said recording medium in said recording/reproducing apparatus;

comparing a base part version of the recording/reproducing apparatus with a detailed extended part version stored in a reserved zone of a physical format information zone of said recording medium; and

determining recording compatibility based upon said step of comparing said base part version with said detailed extended part version.

25. (ORIGINAL) A method of determining compatibility between a reproducing medium and a recording/reproducing apparatus, comprising:

installing said reproducing medium in said recording/reproducing apparatus;

comparing a base part version of the recording/reproducing apparatus with a detailed extended part version stored in a reserved zone of a physical format information zone of said reproducing medium; and

determining reproducing compatibility based upon said step of comparing said base part version with said detailed extended part version.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 24, wherein said comparing of said base part version with said detailed extended part version further comprises comparing said base part version with a latest part version having recording compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus stored in said reserved zone.

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 26, further comprising:

comparing said base part version with a latest part version having reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus stored in said reserved zone; and

determining a reproducing compatibility between the recording medium and the recording/reproducing apparatus based upon said step of comparing said base part version with said latest part version having reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus.

28. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 27, wherein said reserved zone is 6 bytes in size, and said detailed extended part version, said latest part version having recording compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus, and said latest part version having reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus are each in the form of n.xy, wherein n represents a specification change, x represents a specification change having no compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus with the recording/reproducing apparatus, and y represents a minor change having recording/reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus.

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 28, wherein said reserved zone is located at a byte position 17 through a byte position 22 of said recording medium.

30. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 27, wherein if the determining of the recording compatibility indicates that there is recording compatibility, then recording is permitted, and if the determining of the recording compatibility indicates that there is not recording compatibility, then recording is prohibited;

and if the determining of the reproducing compatibility indicates that there is reproducing compatibility, then the reproducing is permitted, and if the determining of the reproducing compatibility indicates that there is not reproducing compatibility, then reproducing is prohibited.

31-46. (CANCELLED)

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 24, further comprising recording said integer part, said first decimal place and said second decimal place in a form of n.xy.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 47, wherein:

n represents a specification change,

x represents a specification change having no compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus, and

y represents a minor change having recording/reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus.

49. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 25, further comprising recording said integer part, said first decimal place and said second decimal place in a form of n.xy.

50. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 47, wherein:

n represents a specification change,

x represents a specification change having no compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus, and

y represents a minor change having recording/reproducing compatibility with the recording/reproducing apparatus.

51. (NEW) A method of determining recording and/or reproducing information of a recording medium for use with respect to a recording and/or reproducing apparatus, the method comprising:

reading an extended part version information provided in eight bits of a physical format information zone of a lead in area of the recording medium; and

determining the recording and/or reproducing information of the recording medium for use with respect to the recording and/or reproducing apparatus according to the read extended part version information.

52. (NEW) The method of claim 51, wherein the extended part version information comprises a first number indicated by a first set of four of the eight bits and a second number indicated by a second set of four of the eight bits other than the first set.